

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 8 as follows:

The state of the art in relation to cascades is exemplified by GB published patent application number 2338155, which describes a cascade connection in which packets are employed to configure the cascade such that only one unit, called the master, is allowed to place packets on the cascade connection at any time. GB patent application number 9910895.3, filed 12 May 1999, and corresponding US patent application for Byham et al, serial number 09/369,323 (now US Patent No. 6,594,231) describe an automatic configuration process by means of which the unit which is deemed to be at the bottom of the stack is determined notwithstanding the provision of resilience or possibly misconnection of connecting cables.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 29 as follows:

At the top of a physical stack 100 of network units there is a multi-port unit 1. This may include a 'layer 2' switch 11 which may (for example) have 12 or 24 ports. This unit has (in this example) provision for two plug-in modules, a cascade module 12 and a fibre transceiver module 13. Each module occupies a respective slot in the unit 1. The switch has a multiplicity (such as 12) network ports 14 and the transceiver modules has a respective port 15. The unit includes a console 16, and a 'management agent' 17 controlling the switch 11 by way of (schematically illustrated) management protocols 18.